



Secretary Of Defense Appoints Defense Policy Panel On National Security and the Globalization of Business and Industry

Secretary of Defense William S. Cohen has named retired U.S. Army Brigadier General Peter M. Dawkins to chair a special advisory panel on National Security and the Globalization of Business and Industry.

This Panel will examine security issues and potential security risks resulting from the accelerating globalization and related trends affecting business and industry, including the increased number of U.S.-owned defense contractors with overseas facilities, and the increased foreign ownership of U.S. based suppliers.

The Panel will be drawn from members of the Defense Policy Board, a DoD advisory panel to which Dawkins was appointed earlier this year, as well as from business leaders from such sectors as industry, finance, communications, and database technology.

"This accelerating globalization and transformation of defense-related business," said Cohen, "offers important cost and efficiency advantages to the U.S. defense establishment. At the same time — individually and collectively — these trends raise new issues and potential security risks. General Dawkins is an excellent choice for this important assignment given his background and demonstrated expertise in both national security matters and at the high-

est level of the business and financial worlds."

Among issues which the Panel will address are those resulting from increasing reliance by U.S. defense firms on overseas suppliers and subcontractors for electronics and computer software; increasing foreign ownership of U.S.-based suppliers; increasing reliance on commercial components in defense equipment; and new business practices such as interconnected commercial and defense databases.

Dawkins currently serves as Chairman and CEO of Diversified Distribution Services, Inc., a division of Travelers Group. Previously, he was Chairman and CEO of Primerica Financial Services, Inc., also a Travelers' subsidiary.

Cohen and Deputy Secretary John Hamre have indicated in recent months that these issues are a top priority for the Department, and they are pursuing several initiatives to ensure that the Department continues to adjust effectively to the new realities of a global economy and to the full range of attendant security implications.

Editor's Note: This information is in the public domain at <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/> on the Internet.